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MINNESOTA AND U.S. HONEY PRODUCTION UP FROM LAST YEAR

Minnesota honey production in 2004 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 10.13 million pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. The number of honey-producing colonies in Minnesota increased to 135,000 from 120,000 the previous year. The U.S. production rose 1 percent to 183.6 million pounds while the number of colonies was down 2 percent to 2.56 million.

Yield per colony for Minnesota averaged 75 pounds compared with 83 pounds for the previous year. Nationally, yield per colony averaged 71.8 pounds, up 1.8 pounds from 2003.

Minnesota producers received an average of \$1.04 per pound for honey sold in 2004, resulting in an estimated value of production of \$10.53 million. The U.S. value of production is estimated at \$201.8 million, with an average price of \$1.09 per pound. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops.

Producers held 1.9 million pounds of honey stocks in Minnesota as of December 15, 2004, unchanged from a year ago. U.S. producers held 61.2 million pounds, up 50 percent from a year earlier.

The U.S. average 2004 honey prices per pound by color class are: Water White, Extra White, and White - \$1.21; Extra Light Amber - \$1.04; Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber - \$1.01; All Other Honey - \$1.65.

HONEY PRODUCTION MINNESOTA AND SURROUNDING STATES

MILLION LBS.

